

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6069

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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FOR UNESCO

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, UNESCO, UK

SUBJECT: UNESCO MASS MEDIA DECLARATION

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REF: (A) LONDON 15376; (B) STATE 229731

1. ASSISTANT LEGAL ADVISOR STOWE MET WITH FOREIGN OFFICE, HOME OFFICE AND OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY OFFICIALS SEPTEMBER 29 TO DISCUSS U.S. ALTERNATIVE TEXT FOR UNESCO DECLARATION ON THE MASS MEDIA. UK OFFICIALS EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS DRAFT WITH STOWE PRIOR TO U.S. MEETING WITH FRG.

2. MEETING WAS CHAIRED BY JOHN SYMONS, DEPUTY HEAD, UN DEPT., FCO, WHO OPENED SESSION BY CONGRATULATING STOWE ON PREPARING WHAT UK CONSIDERS TO BE ALMOST IDEAL DRAFT. THEY AGREE COMPLETELY WITH OUR POSITION THAT IT IS BEST TO CLEARLY IDENTIFY THE VAST GAP BETWEEN OUR VIEW OF THE PROPOSED DECLARATION AND THAT WHICH EMERGED FROM THE

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DECEMBER EXPERTS MEETING. UK FEELS U.S. TEXT DOES THIS

CLEANLY AND CONCISELY. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE FRG DRAFT, WHICH SYMONS DESCRIBED AS A HODGE-PODGE, IS BASED ON AND ONLY ATTEMPTS TO REDRAFT THE DECEMBER TEXT. THIS APPROACH COULD BE DANGEROUS IN THAT SUPPORTERS OF THAT PROPOSAL COULD ACCEPT SOME OF THE FRG CHANGES AND THEN PUSH THE DECLARATION THROUGH BY SAYING THEY HAVE MET INFORMATION GROUP (IG) CONCERNS.

3. UK HOPES U.S. WILL BE ABLE TO CONVINCE FRG THAT WHILE FRG DRAFT WAS WELCOME, IT HAS NOW BEEN OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS AND THAT COMPLETE BREAK FROM DECEMBER EXPERTS DRAFT APPEARS BEST CHANCE OF POSTPONING CONSIDERATION OF DECLARATION. UK IS CONFIDENT REST OF IG WILL BE DRAWN TO U.S. DRAFT. THUS, THEY FEEL AMALGAMATION OF THE TWO TEXTS IS UNNECESSARY. THEY URGED STOWE TO STAND FIRM WITH FRG AND NOT ACCEPT ANY ADDITIONS TO U.S. TEXT.

4. ON TACTICS, UK FEELS WE SHOULD NOT FORMALLY TABLE OUR TEXT. THEY THINK BEST APPROACH WILL BE TO DISCUSS IT INFORMALLY WITHIN IG AND WITH THE EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN. HE COULD THEN INTRODUCE IT INFORMALLY INTO NEGOTIATING GROUP AS THE "UNDERSTOOD OPINION OF THE 22." UK RECOGNIZES THAT AS A FALBACK FORMAL INTRODUCTION MAY HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED, BUT THEY HOPE THIS WILL NOT BE NECESSARY AND THAT CONFRONTATION CAN BE AVOIDED.

5. DURING DETAILED REVIEW OF U.S. TEXT, CHANGES WERE SUGGESTED IN FINAL PARA OF PREAMBLE, SHIFT OF REFERENCE TO HUMAN RIGHTS TO SEPARATE PARA; IN ARTICLE II, WHICH IT WAS AGREED MIGHT BE EXPANDED; IN ARTICLE III, DELETION OF REFERENCE TO PUBLICATIONS AND PROGRAMS; ARTICLE V, DELETION OF REFERENCE TO INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND DOMESTIC LEGISLATION; AND ARTICLE VII, SECOND SENTENCE CHANGED FROM "ARE ALSO ENCOURAGED" TO "SHOULD ALSO BE ENCOURAGED." UK DID NOT SUGGEST ANY ADDITIONS.

ARMSTRONG

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